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Letter dated 26 February 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to resolution 1457 (2003), dated 24 January 2003, by which the Security Council extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a period of six months.

Accordingly, I should like to inform you of my intention to reappoint Mr. Mahmoud Kassem (Egypt) to continue to chair the Expert Panel, and appoint Mr. Alf Görsjo (Sweden), Mr. Mel Holt (United States of America), Mr. Bruno Schiemsky (Belgium), and Mr. Ismaila Seck (Senegal) as Panel members. A proposal with regard to an additional Panel member will be made shortly. The Expert Panel will be assisted by Mr. Andrew Danino (United Kingdom), who would serve as a part-time Technical Adviser, as well as the necessary support staff.

The reconstituted Expert Panel is expected to reassemble in early March 2003 in New York for consultations, including with Member States, before proceeding to the Great Lakes region.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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